

Application number 10/630,598  
Amendment dated January 14, 2005  
Reply to office action mailed July 14, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 will remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 15 have been objected to for various informalities. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 15-17, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art Figure 1 and pages 1-2 of the specification. Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art. Claim 11-14 are allowed, while claims 6 and 18 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Reconsideration of these objections and rejections in light of these amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Formalities

Claims 1 and 15 have been objected to for various informalities. The undersigned believes the amendments address the concerns listed in paragraph 1 on page 2 of the pending office action.

The pending office action also objects to these claims as being informal as the term "separate" is ambiguous. The pending office action states that there is only a single region between transistors, so it is not clear what separate means. (See pending office action, page 2, paragraph 2.)

The first channel stop implant region and a second channel stop implant region in the isolation region are shown and described as separate regions in the specification and figures. For example, the specification states that "Isolation conductive path 310 is formed by a mask which allows channel stop implant 140 to be placed everywhere under field oxide 120 except in isolation conductive path 310." (See pending application, page 7 paragraph 39) Figure 4, to which this passage refers, shows at least three separate portions of field oxide 120 (where the channel stop is implanted) that are not in common with isolation conductive path 310 (where channel stop implant is blocked). Accordingly, Figure 4 shows at least three separate channels stop regions. Applicant's thus request that this objection be removed.

Application number 10/630,598  
Amendment dated January 14, 2005  
Reply to office action mailed July 14, 2004

PATENT

Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art as shown in Figure 1 and pages 1-2 of the specification. But the admitted prior art does not show each and every element of this claim. For example, claim 1, as amended, recites "selectively implanting a first channel stop implant region and a second channel stop implant region in the isolation region, wherein the first channel stop implant region is separate from the second channel stop implant region." The prior art shown in Figure 1 does not provide this feature.

As described above, Figure 4 of the pending application shows an isolation conductive region 310 and a field oxide region 120. Channel stop implant is placed everywhere under field oxide region 120 except in isolation conductive region 310. (See for example, pending application, page 7 paragraph 39.) These separate channel stop implant regions thus form the isolation conductive region 310. The admitted prior art does not provide the separate channel stop regions required by the claim. Rather, the admitted prior art shows a single channel stop region.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 should be allowed.

Other claims

Claim 15 should be allowed for similar reasons as claim 1. The other claims depend on these claims and should be allowed for the same reasons and for the additional limitations they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Application number 10/630,598  
Amendment dated January 14, 2005  
Reply to office action mailed July 14, 2004

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-273-4182.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Matthew Zigmant  
Reg. No. 44,065

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 650-326-2400 Fax: 415-576-0300  
JMZ:djb  
60351880 v1